

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06188 301834Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-10 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 IO-14 /178 W

----- 116776

R 301735Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9020

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 6188

PASS AGRICULTURE

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: EAGR, OCON, EEC

SUB: BELGIAN REQUEST FOR STUDY ON EC HOP IMPORTS.

REF: EC BRUSSELS 6080

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, BELGIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER LAVENS INTRODUCED SUBJECT OF LOW EC HOP PRICES AT LATEST COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING. MINISTRY OFFICIALS CLAIM LAVENS DID NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUEST RESTRICTIVE MEASURES BUT ONLY THAT THE COMMISSION STUDY THE PROBLEM.

2. GOVERNMENT AND TRADE OFFICIALS AGREE THAT PRODUCERS PRICES ARE ABOUT 50 PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR'S LEVEL BUT ATTRIBUTE MOST OF THE BLAME TO THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS

IN HOP PRODUCTION IN WEST GERMANY. BELGIUM NORMALLY EXPORTS "BRITISH" VARIETIES AND IMPORTS "CONTINENTAL" AND OTHER VARIETIES FROM GERMANY AND ESTERN EUROPE AS WELL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06188 301834Z

AS FROM THE US AND OTHER SOURCES. MUCH OF THE INCREASED

GERMAN PRODUCTION IS SAID TO BE OF THE "BRITISH" VARIETIES. THIS YEAR, THEREFORE, INSTEAD OF IMPORTING SOME OF BELGIUM'S SURPLUS OF THESE VARIETIES, WEST GERMANY HAS BEEN A LARGE NET EXPORTER OF THEM.

3. THE IRONIC CONCLUSION WOULD SEEM TO FOLLOW, THEN, THAT WEST GERMANY, WHICH SUPPORTED BELGIUM IN BRINGING UP THE ISSUE, IS IN FACT PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BELGIAN PROBLEM. BELGIAN IMPORTS FROM THAT COUNTRY HAVE TRIPLED DURING THE PAST YEAR, WHILE IMPORTS FROM ALL OTHER SOURCES HAVE ACTUALLY DECLINED. BELGIAN BREWERS REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF HOPS VARIETIES FROM NON-EC SOURCES AND WOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY FURTHER DECREASE IN THEIR AVAILABILITY.

4. LAVENS, WHO COMES FROM AN IMPORTANT HOPS PRODUCING AREA, WAS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO MAKE SOME GESTURE ON PRODUCERS' BEHALF. THE TRADE BELIEVES THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR RESTRICTIVE ACTION ON IMPORTS BEING TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL ARE QUITE REMOTE. BELGIAN OFFICIALS PRIVATELY AGREE AND ADD THAT ANY HELP TO PRODUCERS MAY HAVE TO TAKE THE FORM OF AN INCREASE IN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS OR SOME OTHER FORM OF DIRECT AID.  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS, HOPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BRUSSE06188  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973105/aaaaadhv.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** EC BRUSSELS 6080  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 31 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <31-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <05-Nov-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BELGIAN REQUEST FOR STUDY ON EC HOP IMPORTS.  
**TAGS:** EAGR, OCON, BE, GE, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005